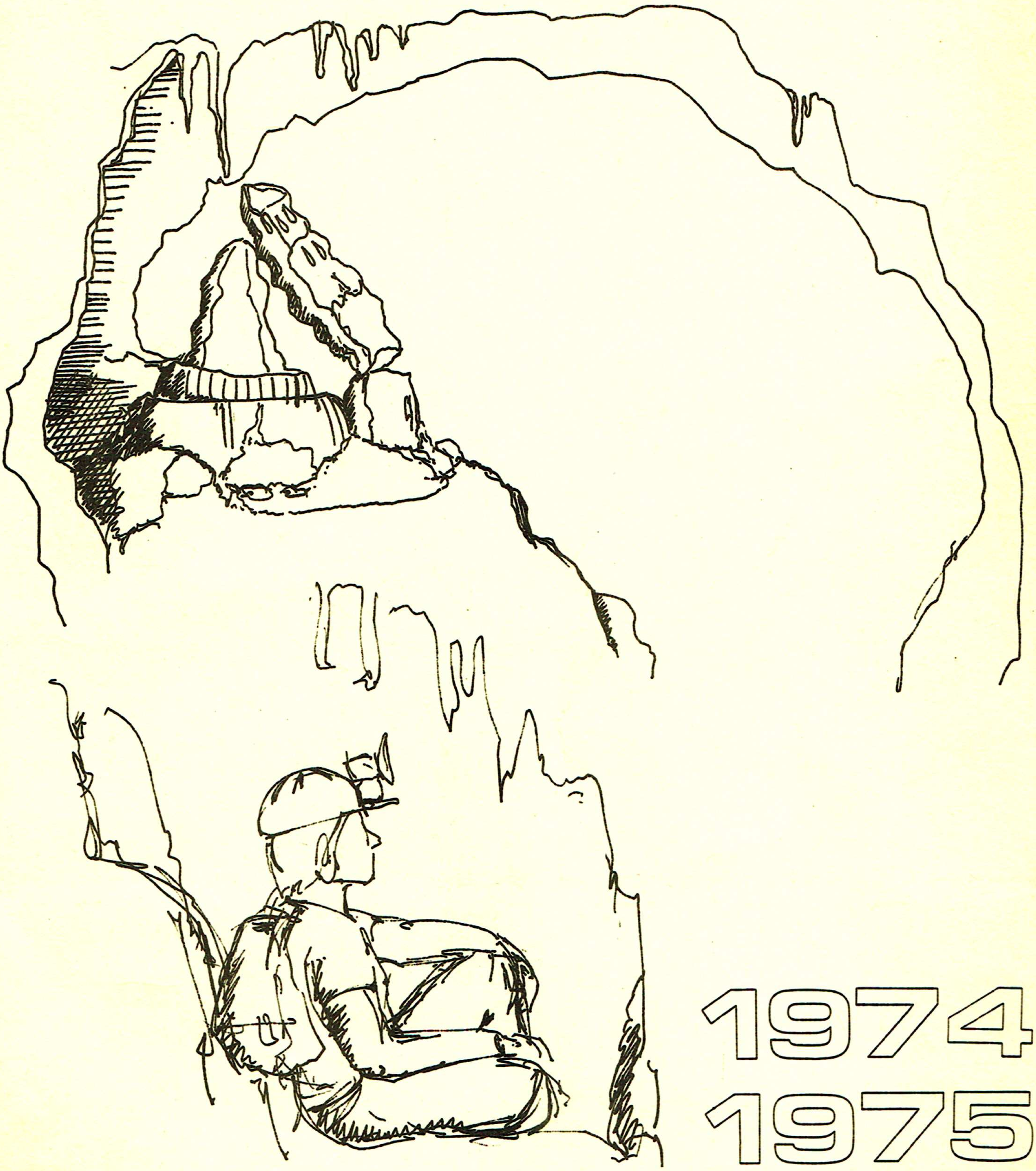
SWTG NEWS



1974
1975

The SOUTHWEST TEXAS GROTTO NEWSLETTER (SWTG NEWS) is published yearly or thereabouts. Due to lack of time, occasionally two years are combined into one newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to publish activities of the SWT Grotto. Our exchange policy is to exchange with those who exchange with those who exchange with us. Additional copies of this newsletter, as well as the 1971-1972 newsletter and the 1973 newsletter are available for $1.00 each postpaid U.S. or 50 cents if picked up at grotto meetings etc. while they last. The official grotto address is: Southwest Texas State Student Grotto, Student Union, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

Publication Staff:

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TO OUR EXCHANGES- We are revising our exchange list this year. Many of the grotto's who exchange with us no longer exist. If you know of any grotto who exchanges publications, give them our address and have them send us a newsletter and we'll put them on our exchange list. We plan to have our 1976 newsletter out in March 1977. I hope! We spend most of our time caving. We don't have much time to write newsletters. The next issue will be printed when possible. It will have photographs like the 1971-1972 and 1973 newsletters. They were cut from this issue due to time and budgetary considerations. If you exchange with us, don't drop us. We're still here and active.

EDITORIAL - Well! I'm getting notices from some of our exchanges who are asking where we are. So, I'd better put together something. Here it is. No attempt was made to try to eliminate the numerout typographical errors in this publication. The 1974-1975 news consists of trip reports and a short article about membership. Much thanks to Dale Pate who keeps trip reports and is the major contributer this year. Many thanks to Robert Hemperly for the artwork used in this issue, front cover etc. He drew them this weekend while traveling to H.T. Miers Cave for a mapping trip.

Those members who wish to contribute to the 1976 issue, we need trip reports, photographs, artwork, articles, etc. Submit material to the research chairman before the end of January 1977.

We are working on an article about the SWT Grotto. Historical notes are needed. We have copies of old membership lists except for spring 1968, fall 1968 and fall 1970. If anyone has a copy of any of these lists, we need a copy.

CAVER CALENDAR - Things to look forward to do in the future.

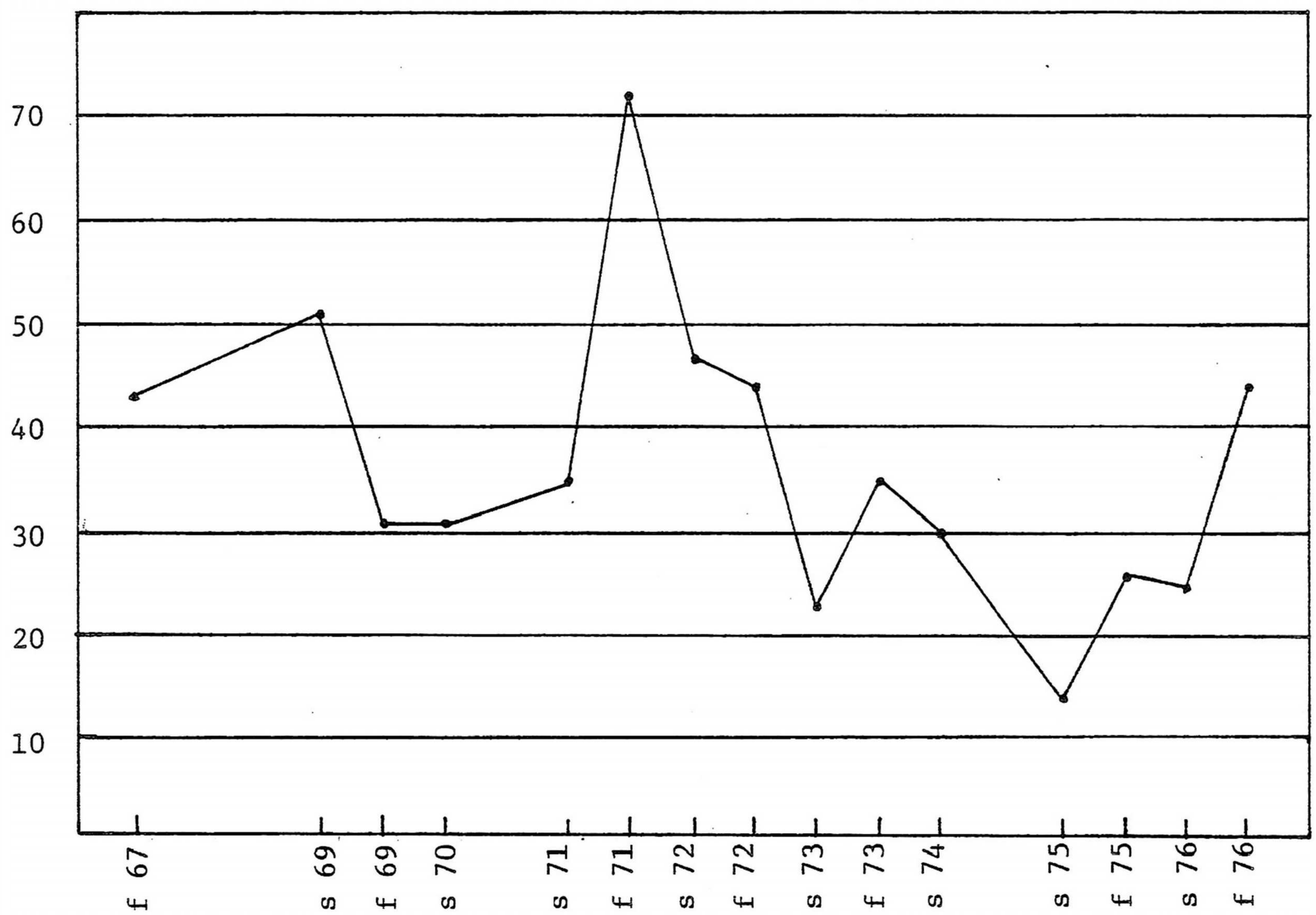
November - December 1976 No Texas caving due to deer season
November 25-28, 1976 Thanksgiving Caving trips to Mexico
December 18 - January Long Christmas vacation, Go caving in Mexico.
January 1977 Deer season ends, Texas caving begins
Summer 1977 - Old timers reunion somewhere near San Marcos, All old members as well as current members welcome. We will be 10 years old.
Summer 1978 - NSS Convention somewhere in Texas. Probably it will be in New Braunfels. Plan on attending. This is a big event.

MEMBERS

SPRING 1974	FALL 1974	SPRING 1975	FALL 1975
William Ballard		Dariel Baker	
Brian Clark *2			John Chelf
JoAnn Haning		Marcia Cossey	Marcia Cossey
Mary Harris		Richard Donahue	
Blake Harrison *			Scott Evans
Robert Hemperly *		Steve Fleming *	
Keith Heuss *7			Bob Finger
Mike Hill *5			Steve Geisler
Sylvia Hurd			Joanne Gusey
Jeri Jones *			Sara Halpin
Mary Kay Krauska 3		Jim Haning	Jim Haning *
Jan Lewis *		Keith Heuss *2	Keith Heuss *2
Sandi Luker *			Susan King
Dan Maddox		Katie Monahan 3,4	Katie Monahan 3,4
Mike McClaugherty			Wendy Mon tie th-
Logan McNatt *			Anne Moore
Walter Miller			Randy Mormon
Katie Monahan			Janel Nye
Wendy Montieth			Hal Odum
Janel Nye 4		Dale Pate *7	Dale Pate *7
Hal Odum		Brian Peterson *	Brian Peterson *
Gary Parsons		Kandy Peterson *	Kandy Peterson *
Dale Pate *1		Karen Pfeiffer	Karen Pfeiffer
Brian Peterson *			Claire Roberts
Kandy Peterson *		Bill Thomas	Bill Thomas
Terry Raines *			Debbie Tolar
Bill Thomas			Mike Walsh
Bill Wilson			Lisa Wilk
Tom Wright		Gwen Wilkins	
Charlie Yates *			Carol Williams
		Charlie Yates *1	Charlie Yates *1

* Qualified Members	4 Treasurer	Life Members:
1 President	5 Equipment Chairman	
2 Vice President	6 Expedition Chairman	Dwayne Faith
3 Secretary	7 Research Chairman	Brian Peterson *

The above chart lists the dues-paid members for the two years covered by this newsletter. There was no membership list compiled for the fall 1974 semester. Below is a graph of members of the grotto since its beginning in 1967. (Note that f=fall semester and s=spring semester). I have searched thru my files as well as the grotto's files, and I have not been able to locate a membership list for the spring and fall semesters for 1968 and the fall semester 1970. If anyone out there can help me locate these lists, it would be greatly appreciated if you would write me (Keith Heuss, 1107 N. Barbara Dr., San Marcos, Texas 78666).



Membership in the grotto is open to all SWTSU students. A small percent of the people, after attending several meetings and going on the club trip, stay with caving. Since much of caving requires vertical techniques, cavers should become qualified, To become qualified, you must have completed the following requirements c

1. Rig and rappel into a pit.
2. Using knots, prusik 15 meters (50 feet) in a cave.
3. Be able to tie the following knots:
   a. Bowline
   b. Sheetbend
   c. Fisherman's knot
   d. Butterfly knot
   e. Prusik knot
   f. Overhand knot
   g. Half hitch
   h. Clove hitch
4. Go on at least two day caving trips and at least two overnight trips.
5. Be a member of the grotto for at least one semester.
6. Be voted on by a simple majority of the qualified members.

All requirements must be met in the presence of at least one qualified member. In addition, the member must participate in a number of caving activities sufficient to demonstrate his responsibility and proficiency in basic caving skills.

TRIP REPORTS

Date: January 19, 1974
Destination: McCarty Cave
Persons: Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Sandi Luker, Dale Pate
Reported by: Keith Heuss

We went to McCarty Cave and took some pictures of the sink area. One salamander was observed and photographed outside the cave.

Date: January 20, 1974
Destination: McCarty Cave
Persons: Tom Foote, Mike Hill, Sylvia Hurd, Katie Monahan, Janel Nye, Hal Odum, Peggy Odum and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

We set out early in the afternoon to explore the cave, First we collected trash from the parking place and then while Tom, Janel, Katie, Sylvia and myself went through the cave, Mike, Hal and Peggy picked up more trash. We went to several rooms which were not on the map. We went all the way to the back of the cave. We replaced the lock and found 4 people from UT there, It was a nice afternoon.

Date: January 25-27, 1974
Destination: Midnight Cave
Persons: Keith Heuss, Mike Hill, Mary Kay Krauska, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth, Janel Nye, Hal Odum, Dale Pate and Bill Thomas
Reported by: Dale Pate

Our two vehicles made it to the Carta Valley triangle pretty late to find quite a few people from Alpine there. The people from Alpine were headed toward Midnight so we headed with them. After talking to Mrs. Harding the next morning, all of us headed for the cave. Half of our people and all of Alpine's used the lower entrance while several of us took the upper entrance. We stayed in the cave 3 or 4 hours and took quite a few pictures. While there, Mike Walsh with Ed and Ann Jacoby, Bill Wilson, and others came through the cave. After getting out, we drove to Garner State Park where we found Stan and Sandi and dog. Sunday we drove back to San Marcos.

Date: February 15-17, 1974
Destination: La Gruta del Precipicio
Persons: Brian Clark, Preston Forsythe, John Graves, Blake Harrison, Logan McNatt, Neal Morris, Dale Pate and Barbara Vinson
Reported by: Dale Pate

Everyone except John met at my house two hours late* We then piled into vehicles and made it to John's house in San Antonio* From there we headed to Bustamante Canyon where we got there early in the morning. Quite a few people from A&I and UT were there including Tom Wright, Craig and Stanley Bittenger as well as many others. Craig had a roaring fire built by the time everyone got up. It was extremely cold. The water froze in some canteens. We started up the trail to Precipicio by 10:00 or 11:00. It took us about 2 hours and 45 minutes to reach the entrance. After eating and resting, we started through the cave. It was fantastic. Walking passage, a 90 foot drop, extremely large passage, a short drop into a very large room. Fantastic. Due to a large amount of people coming out, it took us a long time to get up the drop. Arriving at the entrance by about 3:00 in the morning. Brian and I ate some food with one of the most impressive views ever. Bustamante Canyon at night is fantastic* We spent the night in the cave and it was quite dusty* We started down around 12:00 and were down by 1:45. After cleaning up we went into Bustamante and had dinner, then headed back to the states*

Date: February 15-17, 1974
Destination: Sonora area
Persons: Bob Finger, Keith Heuss, Ed and Ann Jacoby, Bob Oakley, Gary Parsons, Brian and Kandy Peterson, Mike and Linda Walsh, Larry and Elaine Williams
Reported by: Bob Oakley

Truckin thru Wyatt's Cave, Corky's Cave, Ramon's Cave, Cueva de Oso.

Arrived at our intended location about 9:30 p.m. on Friday to be greeted by a locked gate. A not overly friendly neighboring rancher unlocked the gate for us. After assuring the resident ranch hand that we were not the immigration service, we settled in for the night. Saturday we divided our forces to explore and map the caves. The team at Corky's Cave reported that I would have had a hard time fitting into that one. Larry Williams, Gary Parsons and myself went to check out Ramon's Cave and I almost stepped on the resident skunk. The final score was skunk 3, cavers 0. We were greeted with less than overt enthusiasm upon our return to camp. When we returned the skunk was not home to play the game; so I guess we won that round.

Sunday morning the entire herd attacked Wyatt's Cave to map it * Walsh organized the survey and found everyone to be a super mapper except me, so I was assigned to check all small leads. We mapped, explored, and took pictures until father time caught us. That is one complicated cave system with no end in sight.

We had a small barbeque Saturday for our host and questioned him in regard to cave owner relations in the area* He is personally enthusiastic toward this group mainly thry the efforts of Mike Walsh, but many of his neighbors are scared of lawsuits and outlandish lookins citv folk* One of the biggest and prettiest caves in the state is out there and has been closed for some time because of typical crap pulled by cavers in the past.

We plan to return to the area and finish the mapping in the immediate future.

Date: February 23, 1974
Destination: McCarty Cave
Persons: Mary Harris, Mike Hill, Katie Monahan, Janel Nye, Dale Pate, Talty Robinson, Bill Thomas, Dak and Monty
Reported by: Dale Pate

This trip filled a Sunday afternoon and all that really happened was that we all had a good time. Mike and I removed a very dead racoon from the entrance and headed on. Katie and Bill had a good time trying to find the entrance on the way out. but couldn't. A typical great trip to McCarty's.

Date: March 22-24, 1974
Destination: Langtry Quarry Cave and Litter Barrel Cave
Persons: Brian Clark, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth, Dale Pate and Bill Thomas
Reported by: Dale Pate

We left on a Friday and ate at the Pizza Hut in Uvalde. We camped at the Pecos Bridge. Saturday we stopped at the Judge Roy Bean Center and then drove out to the cave. We stayed at Langtry Quarry for about 1 hour and then we went to Litter Barrel. Sunday was spent at Garner State Park.

Date: June 21=23, 1974
Destination: Devil's Sinkhole
Persons: Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Stan Moerbe, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

We piled into Keith's van and headed for San Antonio, where we picked Stan and Steve up. That night we stayed at the triangle North of Rocksprings. The next morning we drove to the Ranch and turned our releases over to Mr. Whitworth. We stayed at the Sinkhole four or more hours and all of us did the pit. Very nice size for Texas. A lot of pictures were taken and Keith made a movie. The night was spent at Garner and Sunday we went swimming at La Pryor after picking corn at Stan's place.

Date: July 6-8, 1974
Destination: Cow Creek Rattlesnake Cave, Moorhead Cave and Scramble Cave
Persons: Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Stan Moerbe, Katie Monahan and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

On July 7, 1974, after spendinf Friday night at the Pecos River Bridge, a group consisting of Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Stan Moerbe Katie Monahan and myself drove up to a ranch house located just south of Comstock in Vai Verde Co. The Mexican foreman came out to greet us and to see what we wanted. We explained our purpose of looking for caves and also explained that we knew of one cave on his land that we would like to visit.

He didn't know of that one cave but he took us to another close to the ranch house. The foreman told us that it was usually a snake den and departed* Keith and Steve decided to hike down the creek and look for the cave that we thought was in the area. They found it but we didn't have a chance to enter it. That left Katie, Sylvia, Stan and myself to explore and map the new cave the foreman had showed us. Stan entered first and scouting around he managed to turn up one small rattler* The snake crawled out of sight and we quickly found that the cave ended in fill, so we started mapping. The cave turned out to be 150 feet long. We gave it the name Cow Creek Rattlesnake Cave.

We drove back to the ranch house to let the foreman know that we were out and he volunteered to take us to another cave that was about ten miles from the ranch. The entrance was small and it had a couple of large rocks covering it. After moving them, Stan, Katie, Sylvia, and I entered to explore and map the cave. It turned out to be 120 feet long or longer with several small leads. Keith and Steve stayed outside and talked to the foreman. After a brief discussion as to what to name the cave we decided on Scramble Cave because of the brief scramble one of us made when he came face to face to a green and orange colored snake.

After thanking the foreman, we left the ranch. We had accomplished more than we had hoped for. We had located the cave we were looking for and more importantly we had found two new caves.

We then drove to the Highwater Bridge where Steve, Stan and Keith hiked down to Moorhead Cave. The next day we stopped and picked corn at Stan's place in La Pryor and went sx^imming.

Date: July 20-22, 1974
Destination: Emerald Sink
Persons: Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Sandi Luker, Tim Martin, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

Friday night was spent at the Pecos Bridge and the next morning we drove to Langtry and out to the caves. We did Emerald Sink first which took us a long time because a lot of people had no gear. From there we went over to Langtry Lead. We spent the night at the caves and headed home after finding large water type bugs living in the water we had gotten at the service station in Langtry. Beware of the water there.

Date: August 30-September 2, 1974
Destination: Huasteca Canyon and Sumidero de Ebanito
Persons: Debbie Finnagan, Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Tommy Joe, Mary Kay Krauska, Frances McCauley, Katie Monahan, Gary Parsons, Dale Pate and Frank Sodek
Reported by: Dale Pate

We met in Huasteca Canyon late Friday Night and Saturday morning out group along with the temple group decided to drive through the canyon. The drive through the canyon took about 8 hours and in the end Frank's truck had a very hard time. We finally had to go into the small town on top to get a larger truck to pull us out. From there we drove out of the mountains and headed

south to Linares where we turned and went into the mountains to Iturbide. The next day we decided to head back to Monterrey after we stopped at the large carving on the wall and at Sumidero de Ebanito o From there we headed back where we stopped in Montemorales and drank ORANGE JUICE, That was a mistake. We headed to Monterrey where we walked around and then ate Filet Mignon, The night was spent outside of Monterrey. The heat and the mosquitos were terrible so we got up and headed home in the middle of the night. We made it back before noon.

Date: September 6-8, 1974
Destination: Gorman Falls Cave
Persons: John Davis, Bob Finger, Katie Monahan, Logan McNatt, Dale Pate, Brian and Kandy Peterson and Linda ?
Reported by: Dale Pate

This was supposed to be a club trip, but it didn't turn out that way. We arrived at Gorman Falls about 10:30 Friday Night. Brian and Kandy were already there. Brian played his guitar around the campfire well into the night. The next morning we started into the cave by noon and were probably out by 1:30. We had run into considerable bad air.

Gorman Falls was visited after we cleaned up. Later in the afternoon Brian and Kandy had to leave and Bob drove up shortly after then. That night was spent around the campfire with Logan and I trying to entertain on guitars until Bob got his out. Several Aggies showed up at the campfire and stayed several hours. Sunday we headed home around three.

Date: October 4-6, 1974
Destination: Burial Cave and Leonard Cave
Persons: Brian Clark, Bob Finger, Steve Fleming, Kathy Meeks, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate and Bill Thomas
Reported by: Dale Pate

We got a late start and when we got to Steve's house, Keith had decided not to go. After rearranging we headed out and camped at Loma Alta roadside park. The next morning we drove to the Leonard Ranch where we proceeded to hike in thehills for a couple of hours looking for Leonard Cave. We finally located it and mapped it. It was large and turned out to be 430? long. From there we hiked back and headed to Burial Cave. We spent about 1 hour in the cave mapping it. After leaving there we camped at the Carta Valley triangle and the next morning found us heading for home.

Date: October 11-13, 1974
Destination: Emerald Sink, Langtry Lead Cave and Langtry Quarry Cave
Persons: Marcia Cossey, Steve Fleming, Robert Hemperly, Keith Heuss, Kathy Meeks, Dale Pate, Charlie Yates, Cindy ? and Pat ?
Reported by: Dale Pate

After getting a much later start than expected, we finally arrived at the

Pecos Bridge at 2:00 A.M. The next morning we were at the entrance to Langtry Lead by 10:00. Amazing. We spent a couple of hours in there and chased a raccoon out. From there we headed over to Emerald Sink where we threw rocks down the 140Y drop. After many pictures, we went to Langtry Quarry Cave and took more pictures. The chimneying was very tiring, so we called it quits for the day and camped at the Highwater Bridge. We walked down to an Indian Shelter and looked around before it got dark. The next day we took back roads to Ingram and went dam sliding. We made it home by 7:00 P.M. Sunday.

Date: November 22-24, 1974
Destination: Fate Bell Shelter, Panther Cave and various pictograph sites at Lake Amistad
Persons: Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate and Charlie Yates
Reported by: Dale Pate

We got a very late start Friday and stopped outside of Bracketville to sleep. Saturday morning we were up early and drove to Del Rio to get gas and oil. From there we drove to the Pecos River and put Keith's boat in. We drove out to the Rio Grande and started stopping at shelters. Most of the ones we stopped at had Pictographs in them. Many were very interesting. We turned into Seminole Canyon and there we immediately found Panther Cave. The Pictographs at that site were fantastic. We continued in Seminole Canyon and back to the Pecos Canyon. There we drove upstream to several Pictograph sites. We pulled the boat out of the water about dusk and drove into Del Rio and ate a Whataburger. A norther blew in that night and prevented us from going out on the lake Sunday.

Date: December 14-15, 1974
Destination: Diablo Cave
Persons: Buster Matocha and Mike Walsh
Reported by: Mike Walsh

After we stopped by to look at my new land cruiser, we left on Saturday morning. We entered Diablo Cave that afternoon. It is possible to go 750 to 900 meters before a siphon is reached. The average passage is 3 meters high and almost as wide. The water in the passage ranges from 1 to 15 meters deep Despite the fact that steps have been built over the fence on the way to the cave, it is still on private property. The following day we took back roads from Langtry to Sonora where a trip for after deer season was arranged.

Date: November 27-December 1, 1974
Destination: Black Cave, Carlsbad Caverns, Caverns of Sonora, Cottonwood Cave and Hidden Cave
Persons: Marcia Cossey, Bob Finger, Steve Fleming, John Graves, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Dick Montgomery and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

Dick and John drove up to San Marcos and we headed for Austin where we picked up Steve and Bob. We stopped outside of Ft. Stockton and camped. The next morning we drove into Pecos and on to Carlsbad. We got in contact with Frank Young who brought the keys to Hidden and Black. From there we headed into the mountains and went to Sitting Bull Falls where we found a midden. Bob found a piece of pottery. We also found a very nice pool of ice. On top^ we first went to Cottonwood and looked at the entrance. Then we drove on to Hidden. After eating, we went into the cave. The cave was very cold. We stayed there 3 or 4 hours and come out. A norther hit that night and temp er-atures dropped well below 20 degrees. It was cold. Friday morning we drove over to Cottonwood where we stayed 3 or 4 hours taking pictures. After getting out we drove back to Hidden Cave, where we ate and talked to people from many places. From there we drove down to Black and hiked the distance to the cave. We also stayed 3 or 4 hours in this cave. We came out and found it to be very cold. Saturday morning we began the long trek down and by noon we were in Carlsbad. Jerry Trout came to get the keys and we talked to him for over an hour. We drove to Carlsbad Caverns and took the tour and got out and headed south. Guadalupe Peak and El Capitan looked fine in the sunset. The night was spent outside of Sonora. The next day we went into the Caverns of Sonora. We arrived home at 5:00 Sunday.

Date: January 3-5, 1975
Destination: Silky Cave
Persons: Bob Finger, Buster Matocha, Kike Walsh, Ray Glasscot and Friend
Reported by: Mike Walsh

With deer season over, we rushed to the caving area. Our main goal was to push Sikly Cave. We had broken into this 300 meter long cave just before deer season. On this trip we found several new passages, one of which led to a well decorated room. Later that day we visited another nearby cave, On the trip home we hit snowdrifts up to a meter deep.

Date: January 3-5, 1975
Destination: Montgomery Gupsum Cave
Persons: Steve Fleming, John Graves, Keith Heuss, Sandi Luker, Stan Moerbe, and Dick Montgomery
Reported by: Keith Heuss

Friday, January the 3d, we left San Marcos stopping in San Antonio to pick up Sandi and Dick. We picked up Stan at La Prior and drove on. We arrived at Pumpville very late Friday night. Saturday morning, after talking to the owner, we drove to the cave. We spent several hours taking pictures of the gypsum formations at the bottom of the cave. After we climbed out of the cave we drove back to the owners house where we talked to him for a couple of hours. We than drove to the Pecos Highwater Bridge where we camped.

Sunday morning we explored a small cave on top of the ridge near the road-side park at the bridge. We also visited an indian shelter near the waters edge near the bottom of the bridge.

Date: January 19, 1975
Destination: McCarty Cave
Persons: Keith Heuss, Sylvia Hurd, Sandi Luker and Dale Pate
Reported by: Keith Heuss

Saturday we went to McCarty Cave to cement off a small passageway which leads around the gate. Many people were entering the cave without permission by taking this small passage.

Date: January 24-26, 1975
Destination: Copperhead Cave, Gormanette Cave, Gorman Falls Cave, and Gorman Sink
Persons: Richard Donahue, Steve Fleming, Mary Harris, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate, Cindy Stanley, Charlie and Pam Yates
Reported by: Dale Pate

We made it to Gorman's Fishing camp sometime after dark on Friday and set up camp. Saturday morning we visited Gormanette Cave and the waterfall. The afternoon was spent going through Gorman Falls Cave and rappelling off some cliffs. Steve managed to push over a large dead tree and after much hacking we had lots of wood and plenty of places to sit. Sunday was spent running in and around Copperhead Cave and Gorman Sink as well as looking at some large cracks, the deepest being about 30 feet deep. If someone finds a lens cap for a nikon camera in the area of Gorman Sink (anywhere on the hill) please return it to Keith Heuss.

Date: February 7-9, 1975
Destination: Langtry Lead Cave
Persons: Dariel Baker, Marcia Cossey, Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Kathy Meeks, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate, Karen Pfeifer, Talty Robinson, Cindy Stanley and Bill Thomas
Reported by: Dale Pate

Our original plan was to go to Bustamante and explore La Gruta del Palmito. Unfortunately the border officials seemed to think that we needed $ 200 a piece to go across. After a three hour wait with no results, we left and decided to go to Langtry. Saturday we spent almost all day driving and we got to Langtry Lead Cave by 4:30 Saturday afternoon. We went through the cave to the Big Room. The chimnies were all very slick so we used a hand-line in one place. We spent about 3 1/2 hours in the cave. We spent the night at the cave and by morning everyone was ready to leave. We headed to Del Rio where we parked our cars and walked to Cd. Acuna for a bit of turistaing. We got back to San Marcos 8:00 Sunday night.

Date: February 14-16, 1975
Destination: Bedding Plane Cave, Quevo de Oso, Wyatt's Cave and small road-cut caves near sonora
Persons: Marcia Cossey, Bob Finger, Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate, Bill Thomas and Charlie Yates
Reported by: Dale Pate

We stayed at Turney Friesse's Ranch Friday night in a hunting cabin. Saturday morning we were up and to the cave by 10:30. We fully explored all possible leads that we saw and mapped a little over 100 feet of passage. Leaving from there we went back to the cabin. Charlie and Bob went to talk to Johnny Leonard and the rest of us had log throwing contests and visited the entrance to Quevo de Oso. The next morning we cleaned up the cabin and headed to Sonora. We checked two roadcut caves, one in the new IH 10 and the other on the old highway to Junction. From there we drove home.

Date: February 28-March 2, 1975
Destination: Garner Park Fissure (2) and Sonora Area
Persons: Dariel Baker, Marcia Cossey, Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Dale Pate and Bill Thomas
Reported by: Dale Pate

Most of this trip was spent at Garner looking at Fissure Caves.

Date: October 10-12, 1975
Destination: Alma's Cave, Dixie Cave and Word Cave
Persons: John Chelf, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth, Randy Mormon, Dale Pate, Debbie Tolar, Lisa Wilk, Carol Williams and Charlie Yates
Reported by: Dale Pate

Charlie and I drove from Austin to San Marcos, where we picked up the gang and drove to Sonora and the triangle. After getting up, we drove to Mr. Genini's Ranch where we drove to close to Alma's Cave. We dropped five off there and Mr. Genini took us to a small cave near where he is building a new house. It was one small room. We quickly mapped it and photographed it and took a tour of Mr. Genini's new house. From there we went to Word Cave to explore it if possible. After about one hour in the cave we knew it would take quite a bit to explore the cave and many more hours to map it. Charlie, Katie, Lisa, and myself explored the main passage and found quite a few leads and a lot of cave. The entrance is a small sink and has at least three main openings and possibly more. Finding the cave was large, we left and went back to Alma's where we helped the rest map the cave. The cave was really nice and we took at least two one hundred sightings in one portion of the cave. After getting out of Alma's we all went back to Word. Severalleads were checked and we saw about 300' of virgin passage with more leads found. After a couple of hours we all headed back and camped. Sunday morning we were up and headed into Word Cave once more. More leads were checked and a lot of new passage was found. One area had helectites. After about 4 or 5 hours of exploring our group had to

head back. We left a lot of leads in at least two separate areas and found quite a bit of new cave. Another entrance was located, but not explored.

For the weekend we located and mapped one small cave (Dixie Cave). We mapped Alma's Cave with about 600=900 feet of passage and we located and explored 1000T to 1500 1 of passage in Word Cave. This was one of the best trips taken.

Date: October 11-13, 1974
Destination: Emerald Sink, Langtry Lead Cave and Langtry Quarry Cave
Persons: Marcia Cossey, Steve Fleming, Robert Hemperly, Keith Heuss, Kathy Meeks, Dale Pate, Cindy Stanley, Charlie Yates and Pat ?
Reported by: Dale Pate

After getting a much later start than expected, we finally arrived at the Pecos Bridge at 2:00 AM. The next morning we were at the entrance to Langtry Lead by 10:00 AM. Amazing. We spent a couple of hours in there and chased a raccoon out. From there we headed over to Emerald Sink where we threw rocks down the 142 ? drop. After many pictures, we went to Langtry Quarry Cave and took more pictures. The chimneying was very tiring, so we called it quits for the day and camped at the Highwater Bridge. We walked down to an Indian Shelter and looked around before it got dark. The next day we took back roads to Ingram and went dam sliding. We made it home by 7:00 PM Sunday.

Date: October 17-19, 1975
Destination: Cascade Caverns and Cascade Sink
Persons: John Chelf, Marcia Cossey, Steve Geister, Andy Grubbs, Jim Haning, Keith Heuss, Jody Karin, Katie Monahan, Greg Passmore, Dale Pate and Lisa Wilk
Reported by: Dale Pate

Andy and I drove from Austin to San Marcos where after much arranging, watching M*A*S*H and buying groceries our group headed to Boerne and Cascade Caverns where we met Greg Passmore. The next morning we surveyed the distance from Cascade Sink to Cascade Caverns. Around noon we went into the caverns to the lower level where Keith, Jim and John did a vertical survey of the lower level. After making some movies we were all out by 5:00. After supper, we did a practice rope session at Peep in the Deep. We finished a couple hours after dark.

Sunday morning everyone went to Cascade Sink where many went down and up. We made it home by 6:00 or 7:00 PM.

Date: November 7=9, 1975
Destination: Emerald Sink, Langtry Lead and Langtry Quarry Cave (Club Trip)
Persons: (SWTG) Jimmy Barton, Bob Burney, John Chelf, Marcia Cossey, Phyllis Davies, Dickie Donahue, Scott Evans, Bob Finger, Robert Fisher, Joanne Gusey, Sara Halpin, Keith Heuss, Jody Karin, Cindy Kruss, Buster Matoka, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth, Anne Moore, Randy Mormon, Robert Mundine, Janel Nye, Virginia Oehler, Brian and Kandy Peterson, Dave Pursha, Deb Sharp, Debbie Tolar,

Jeff Watkins, Mike Walsh, Lisa Wilk, Carol Williams, Charlie Yates, (New Mexico) Eric Castillo, Steve Fleming, (Aggies) John Gale, Alicia Wisener, Neal ? and ?

Reported by: Keith Heuss

Thirty three members of SWT Grotto, four Aggies and one non caver from New Mexico met up at Langtry Lead Cave at various times Friday -night. Saturday morning we split up into several groups and trips were taken thru Langtry Quarry Cave, Langtry Lead and Emerald Sink. Particular difficulty was encountered in trying to teach numerous new cavers chimnying and rope climbing in Emerald Sink. Bob Burney spent hours at the bottom of the 140 foot pit putting people on rope. Some difficulty was encountered at the chimny in Langtry Quarry Cave.

Due to a mix up, the Aggies and Eric spent Saturday night at the Pecos River Bridge. As time went by and they didn't return, Steve began to wonder when they were coming because Efic had to ride back to New Mexico and he needed to leave soon. People began drifting back to San Marcos Sunday afternoon.

Date: November 9, 1975
Destination: Boyett's Cave and Site's Pit
Persons: Jim Haning, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Wendy Montieth and Dale Pate
Reported by: Dale Pate

We drove to Wimberly and tried to locate the owner to Sites Pit, but were unsuccessful. From there we drove to Boyett's Cave where Keith and Jim talked to the owner. She expressed an interest in placing a gate on the cave. We went to the cave where only Keith and Wendy went in, due to bad air in the cave

Date: November 16, 1975
Destination: L. T. Cave (King Quarry Cave) and Too Tight Cave
Persons: Joanne Gusey, Jim Haning, Keith Heuss, Jody Karin, Katie Monahan, Randy Mormon, Greg Passmore and Jeff Watkins
Reported by: Dale Pate

Around 2:00 we headed out to a quarry about 1 mile from San Marcos where several cavers reported seeing some caves on a geology field trip. Scouting around we spotted at leadt 7 entrances, each to a separate cave probably. Checking out the first one, Randy, Keith and myself determined that it was too tight and would need some digging to get into. However the end could not be seen and we detected a slight breeze blowing from the entrance. From there we headed to another cave whose entrance was about 4 feet wide and 2 feet high. We determined it to be about 150' to 175' long with some formations in the back. While in the cave the leasee talked to Greg Passmore and asked us to leave due to the deer hunters on the land. We left the other five holes unexplored. Hopefully, after deer season we will be able to get back on the land o

Date: November 22=23, 1975
Destination: Cascade Sink
Persons: John Chelf, Susan Cheld, Marcia Cossey, Joanne Gusey, Keith Heuss, Jody Karin, Katie Monahan, Jerry Owens, Greg Passmore, Dale Pate, Richard Quarles and Randy Waters
Reported by: Keith Heuss

Dalej Katie, Jody and I left San Marcos at about 10:30 PM Saturday night. We arrived at Cascade Caverns around midnight. After talking to Greg for a while we retired. Ice was on the inside of the windows so we didn't get up too early Sunday morning.

The second group from San Marcos (John, Susan, Joanne and Richard) arrived at 9:45 Sunday morning. We all ate a quick breakfeast and talked with Mr, Bridges for a while.

We arrived at Cascade Sink by noon where Jerry and Randy were already preparing to rig the pit. We all did the 80 foot drop except Dale and Susan. Marcia, Jerry and Randy went down the water passage as far as the "T" in the passage (about 1/3 of the cave).

After about two hours, they returned and reported the water was quite cold. Marcia did some biological collecting in the water passage.

After we all climbed out of the cave, we talked with Mr. Bridges for a while. We decided the water level was up about 9 to 12 inches from its level about two years ago. We ate supper in Boerne and returned to San Marcos.

Date: December 6=7, 1975
Destination: Swinger Cave (Barton Creek Cave No. 2)
Persons: Marcia Cossey, Ronnie Fiesler, Joanne Gussey, Keith Heuss, Katie Monahan, Anne Moore, Randy Morman, Dale Pate, Lisa Wilk and Charlie Yates
Reported by: Dale Pate

Keith, Katie, Charlie, Randy, Joanne and I went out to the cliffs on Barton Creek to practice rappelling. While out we saw one cave in the cliff that looked hard to get to, so we decided to try. Keith and Charlie rigged a rope over the cave and Keith rappelled down to the level of the cave. We tried all sorts of meathods of swinging Keith into the cave with no luck. He went on down. Charlie then rappelled and we tried to swing him into the cave. No luck. After getting off the rope, Keith went up once again where we finally swung him close enough to get a hand hold and he climbed into the cave. Keith managed to rig a rope in the entrance and Charlie climbed up. Unfortunately the cave passage was typical Airmen's type passage and Keith only got about 30 feet. The cave follows a definite line of fracture. Both came out of the cave.

Sunday all of the above listed people met at the cave where we successfully swung Randy into the cave. Charlie followed close behind. Randy explored approximately 60-80' of virgin passage until he ran into breakdown blocking the passage. There being no way to turn around, he backed up all the way. Charlie came out and I went in. Then Randy came out and Keith came up. I went up the passage and finding no way around the breakdown, I backed out the whole way across. At the entrance Keith and I rigged a permanant tie off point and then came out. One of the highlights of the day was when some kid fell head first down a small 3 foot drop and broke his nose.

We explored one new cave for Travis County.

Date: December 26, 1975 - January 2, 1976
Destination: Lincoln National Forrest, New Mexico
Persons: Eric Castillo, Steve Fleming, Keith Heuss, Janel Nye, Talty Robinson, Lisa Wilk

Reported by; Keith Heuss

We visited Hidden cave Sunday morning, On our way down the mountain that afternoon, we bent my tie rod and ended up spending a cold night in the snow. We managed to limp to the road the next day to hitch a ride to Roswell for repair parts. We spent the rest of the trip having fun in the snow.